(b) whether India have received full details of the incident; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the incident and what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K.K. TEWARI) : (a) to (c) Complete details in regard to this incident are not available. Both Governments have stated that the incident took place in international waters. While the Libyan side has maintained that their aircraft were attacked while on a routine reconnaissance patrol, a preliminary report of the US Government has stated that the action was undertaken in self-defence.

The official spokesman of the Government of India made the following statement on this incident:

"The incident over the Mediterranean Sea which led to the shooting down of two Libyanaircrafts by US Navy jets on January 4, 1989, is unfortunate. Such confrontations are dangerous and can only jeopardise the prospects of peace in the region about which the situation has recently become distinly hopeful".

Flouting of Safety Rules in National Airlines

867. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any message from the Indian Pilots' Guild regarding flouting of flight safety rules by one management cadre pilot; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A complaint was received from Indian Pilots' Guild, representative body of Air India Pilots, stating that the Director, Air Safety, had operated flight AI-120 on Sunday, the 17th December, 1988 in violation of the standing orders on the subject. Director General of Civil Aviation who is the regulatory authority examined the matter and found that there was no violation of stipulations on the subject. Indian Pilots' Guild has been informed accordingly on 8-2-1989.

Dredging of Hooghly River

868. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uluberia Municipality has requested Calcutta Port Trust several times for proper dredging of the river regularly;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for not undertaking the work by Calcutta Port Trust ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Municipality of Uluberia had approached the Calcutta Port Trust for dredging shallower areas on the opposite side of the navigational channel because of the bank slips. Since the study of the hydraulic survey charts over several years did not establish the need for dredging as far as the Port was concerned, the Uluberia Municipality was informed by the Calcutta Port Trust